

COMMUNICATIONS GROUP FILE FBIS

BBC →

NOTES OF INTERDEPARTMENTAL MEETING6TH FEBRUARY 1980Financial Situation

We discussed the BBC's general financial position as described in OG's article in "Ariel", with special reference to the impact of the CAC award on the Unions' submission for comparability with ITV - expected at the end of the month, and mandatory - and the 1st April pay settlement. In our case the Government has provided a 14% allowance (Cash Limit) for pay increases in the coming financial year. Each 1% by which the CAC award plus the April pay settlement exceed that 14% will put us about £30,000 in the red. One way or another it looks as if things may be rather tight, although the present international climate must be good for monitoring.

Other Matters

- (i) A joint Engineering-Reception Department Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of H.Admin. to look into the overall modernisation of the Listening Room. It has wide terms of reference and the project will not come to fruition for two or three years.
- (ii) FBIS is pressing ahead with the development of its Gulf Bureau, and will be advertising and recruiting in the U.K. shortly. Some recruits may be trained at Caversham.
- (iii) We will be carrying out a survey of West European TV current affairs output over two months from the beginning of October, largely for FBIS who will pay for a permanent link to Brussels for that period.
- (iv) The new Director of FBIS, [] will visit Caversham from 3-6 March.
- (v) We are negotiating with an American organisation called Mead Data Central for the inclusion of the SWB in its new text service (an electronic library in effect). If successful, the Service will receive royalty payments every time a customer calls up an SWB item. Income from all sources this year is estimated to be up 21% on last, at £115,000.
- (vi) Actuality payments over the Christmas holiday amounted to £5,500 in 1979 compared with £12,500 in 1978; a valuable contribution to our viability this year.

John Rae
Head of Monitoring Service

11th February 1980

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